



Ferris State University Senate Faculty Research Grant (SFRG) Committee  
2022-2023 Faculty Research Committee Progress Report  
May 5, 2023

Dear Ferris State University Academic Senate,

This academic year, the committee consisted of nine faculty members from throughout the university:

Evan R. Watts (Chair)  
Michael E. Klepser  
Julie Herrema  
Timothy Eklin  
Tanzia Sharmin  
Melinda Isler  
Sonali Kurup  
Nick Kuiper  
Thomas C. Dowling (Ex-Officio)

A total of one meeting was held in the Fall, with relatively good attendance, and a second meeting was held at the end of the Spring 2023 cycle. We had planned initially to collect applications in two cycles for this past academic year: one cycle in Fall 2022, and one cycle in Spring 2023. Due to remaining funds in the budget, a third cycle occurred, ending on April 28 of this semester. This report will describe the major activities and accomplishments of the Senate Faculty Research Committee (SFRC).

- For **Fall cycle**, there were a total of two submissions. All were deemed fundable.
  1. “Evaluation of ‘Under Pressure’ a blood pressure board game” by **Shelby Kelsh**. Funding amount: \$4,660.00
    - a. The committee had some initial questions for Dr. Kelsh and granted conditional approval pending clarification of how funds would be allocated. Dr. Kelsh provided this clarification, satisfying the request.
  2. “Identifying reasons for traditional tobacco use in e-cigarette first users” by **Anne Ottney**. Funding amount: \$987.00.

During this cycle, a total of \$5,647.00 was awarded.

- For the **first Spring cycle**, there were a total of two submissions. Both were deemed fundable.
  1. “Brutus Babbles: Implementing and evaluating Ferris First Domain-specific Chatbot” by **Mohamed Abusharkh**. Funding amount: \$5,000.00
  2. “Synthesis and evaluation of irreversible EGFR inhibitors” by **Sonali Kurup**. Funding amount \$7,500.00.



# FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

During this cycle, a total of \$12,500 was awarded.

- For the **second Spring cycle**, there were a total of two submissions. Both were deemed fundable.
  1. “Student Writing-in-Action among Strategies for Teaching Writing” by **Christopher L. Cosper**. Funding amount: \$4,150.00
  2. “A multimedia educational program to improve communication of pharmacists and student pharmacists with patients about sexual health” by **Andrew Tingley**. Funding amount: \$7,600

In summary, across three cycles we have received six high-quality research proposals from a remarkably diverse collection of faculty. In total, the committee has awarded \$29,987.00 in research funding. At this time, we recommend that the budget for next year be held at \$30,000.

The committee also to thank Ferris State University for its commitment to supporting faculty research endeavors. This commitment has allowed faculty to gain funding for seed projects and provide research opportunities for students across campus.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Evan R. Watts, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor of Communication  
Chair, Senate Faculty Research Committee  
Ferris State University College of Arts and Sciences